



Contact: Louella Nahsonhoya
Public Information Officer
Phone: (928) 734-3104
Cell: (928) 797-9946
Fax: (928) 734-6665
lnahsonhoya@hopi.nsn.us
www.hopi-nsn.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2010

Preservation, revitalization of Hopi language in full swing

"The Hopi language shall be a priority in our schools and they need our support."

-- Hopi Tribal Chairman LeRoy N. Shingoitewa

KYKOTSMOVI, Ariz. – The preservation and revitalization of the Hopi language is in full swing. A well attended one-day Hopi Language Forum was held on Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Hopi Veterans Memorial Center.

Hopi Tribal Chairman LeRoy N. Shingoitewa (SING-OI-TEWA*) and Leigh Kuwanwisiwma (KU-WAN-WI-SIW-MA*), director of the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office (CPO), were on hand to welcome attendees to the conference, as well as Miss Hopi Jeanetta Honie and her First Attendant Jenna Lamson.

Various breakout sessions focused on the Hopilavayi (HOPI-LA-VA-YI*) Program and language programs in the schools.

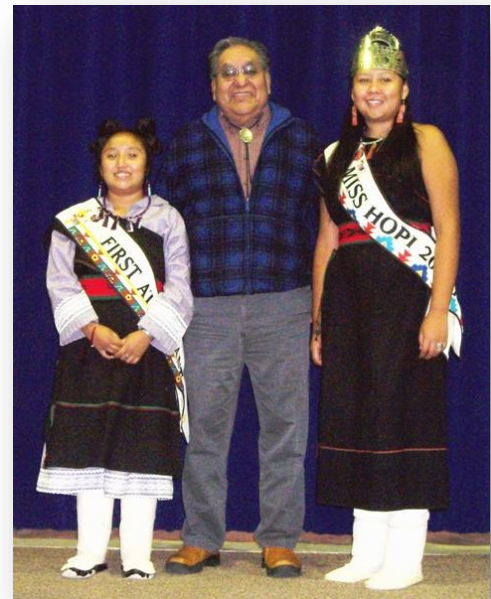
Kuwanwisiwma explained that the home is the best place for the Hopi language to be taught and it is the parents' responsibility to teach the language to their children.

"In the early days, we were told that we should not write the Hopi language," Kuwanwisiwma said. "But, because children are not taught the Hopi language at home, there is now a push to have the language taught in schools and Hopi teachers have taken that responsibility on—I commend them."

In 1997, the Hopi Tribal Council passed a resolution supporting a language assessment that was conducted with a grant from the Administration for Native Americans. The language survey focused on three objectives: language fluency, available resources for language instruction in schools, and a published plan for language education and preservation programs.

According to the assessment, Hopi people expressed concern for language loss in their communities and have repeatedly stressed the immediate need to begin language education. As a result, a Hopi language and culture class was developed in cooperation with the University of Arizona to train Hopi teachers to teach the language. A reinforcement training referred to as a Summer Institute has also been developed and is sponsored by the CPO to help with teaching the language.

Miss Hopi First Attendant Jenna Lamson thanked everyone for their participation and especially the teachers for their efforts in teaching the language. Lamson was a participant in the Hopi language and culture class where she learned the Hopi names of each one of the teachers—an impressive display of the language program.



Hopi Tribal Chairman LeRoy N. Shingoitewa attended the Hopi Language forum on Oct. 23, 2010. Pictured left to right: Miss Hopi First Attendant Jenna Lamson, Chairman Shingoitewa and Miss Hopi Jeanetta Honie. (Photo by Louella Nahsonhoya)

- more -

Chairman Shingoitewa was impressed by Lamson and said, "Listening to the royalty speak Hopi and name all teachers in Hopi brings me great joy. I want you to stay strong and continue with learning the language."

"The Hopi language shall be a priority in our schools and they need our support," Shingoitewa added. "Our identity and everything we do as a Hopi is based on Lavayi. This is not a political issue—this has to do with survival of our people. From this day on, each year, we need to set aside one month as Hopilavayi Month and have all teachers attend the Lavayi Forum."

###

*Phonetic pronunciation of Hopi surnames and words